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ALTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health



and

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the year

1960



# ALTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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*Chairman of Council*

Councillor A. G. Finnimore

*Vice-Chairman of Council*

Councillor A. N. Bisset

## **Public Health Committee**

*Chairman*

Councillor E. T. Hutley

*Members as at 31/12/60*

Councillor A. N. Bisset

Councillor C. R. Read

„ A. C. Edwards

„ G. R. Slone

„ A. G. Finnimore

„ W. A. Stratford

„ B. P. C. Hamblin

*Representatives on the Joint Slaughterhouse Committee*

Councillors Denyer, Hutley, Shipley and Stratford

*Representatives on the Alton (No. 7)*

*District Health Sub-Committee*

Councillors Mrs. C. Harkham and Col. J. P. Archer-Shee, M.C.

## **Staff**

*Medical Officer of Health:*

R. L. Goodey, B.A., M.R.C.S.,  
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

*Chief Public Health Inspector*

*and Meat and Food Inspector:* D. M. Ling, C.S.I.B., M.R.S.H.,  
M.A.P.H.I.

*Clerk:*

M. G. Worthington

ALTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,  
COUNCIL OFFICES,  
HIGH STREET, ALTON, HANTS.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF  
HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1960.**

**Introduction**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1960, concerning the health, social and sanitary conditions of Alton Urban District. This is compiled according to the requirements of the Ministry of Health.

Population of the Urban District shows a steady rise which no doubt will increase with the proposed commercial expansions envisaged. The estimated population (mid 1960) is 8930, that for mid 1959 was 8810. Comparatively few notifications of infectious disease were received throughout the year, vital statistics remained satisfactory and the campaign for protection against poliomyelitis was continued with good results. In general 1960 may be considered as a routine year with little unexpected to note.

I am grateful to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their encouragement and help, to Mr. Ings, Clerk of the Council, to Mr. Ling, Chief Public Health Inspector, and Mr. Worthington and Mr. Dunk for their assistance. Also to officers of other departments of the Council for their help and co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

R. L. GOODEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members  
of Alton Urban District Council.

## **Part 1**

### **General Report of the Medical Officer of Health**

#### **General and Social.**

Alton Urban District is situated on the main London-Winchester road and is the natural centre for the predominantly farming and agricultural communities which surround it on all sides. The main occupations of the inhabitants consist of work in the brewing industry, which is due to expand further in Alton in the near future, light industry and the distributive trades. Beech and Holybourne are two villages in the urban area with interests more rural in character, with dairy and pig farms and some arable land. Alton is an ancient town which has largely developed in a comparatively narrow strip along the main road, now one of the chief traffic arteries to Southampton and the West. Such a highway, which was adequate for the needs of mediaeval or Victorian Alton, when congested with through traffic is a danger when modern methods of transport are considered. It is to be hoped that a by-pass, filtering off through traffic, will not be long delayed, and will allow the main street to revert to its earlier function of a shopping centre for local needs and a focus of local activity.

#### **Comments on Statistics listed in Part 2 of this Report.**

The mid 1960 estimated population figure provided by the Registrar General is 8,930, an increase of 120 on the 1959 figure of 8,810. With new industry coming to Alton it is expected that the population will increase more rapidly over the years to come. The number of live births in this area in 1960 was 124 (70 male and 54 female). The birth rate was 13.9 per 1,000 of estimated population, this when adjusted gives a rate of 14.0, which compares with the birth rate for England and Wales in 1960 of 17.1. The number of illegitimate live births was 10.5% of total live births. As there were 13 only, little significance can necessarily be attached to this figure.

#### **Death Rates.**

In 1960 there were 97 deaths in the area, giving a death rate of 10.9, which when adjusted becomes 10.6. The death rate (provisionally) per 1,000 population of England and Wales in 1960 was 11.5

#### **Infant Mortality Rate and Maternal Mortality Rate.**

There were 3 deaths of infants (all male) under one year, 2 due to congenital malformations, and no deaths were associated with childbirth.

#### **Causes of Death.**

As very slowly the age of death increases, cancer and the

degenerative processes of old age, including heart disease, become more important as causes of death. Of the 97 deaths, 24 were due to various forms of cancer. It is of interest that a survey was made of this area, among others, covering the death notifications for the years 1950-53 ("The Patterns of Mortality in 57 areas within the Wessex and South West Regional Hospital Board areas," authors Nash and Payne). No significant statistical difference was found for this Urban District in the cancer rate. There were four deaths due to cancer of the lung, all males, one sixth of the total deaths due to cancer. The known and accepted association between cancer of the lung and smoking should again be emphasised, and the campaign through high powered advertisement to persuade adolescents to start smoking can only be deplored. (Nearly 22,000 people in England and Wales died in 1960 of cancer of the lung, 18,876 males and 3,116 females, and the rate is rising each year). Deaths due to heart and associated diseases numbered 49, mostly in the middle and later age groups. This number, nearly 50% of the total, is the cause of the greatest number of deaths. Statistics of deaths and births can make very dry reading. Unfortunately, as yet, it is difficult to devise a statistical method beyond that of longevity to measure positive health in a given area. Many years ago infectious diseases were far more lethal than now. Scarlet fever has decreased in virulence and the dangerous infectious diseases have almost disappeared in England, occasionally recurring when an outbreak of diphtheria is reported or a case of smallpox is brought in from abroad. The usual notifications received nowadays are those of measles and whooping cough. Looking back in the old parish records a grimmer story is unfolded, thus in 1655 in Alton the ostler of "The Swan" died of plague, and plague spread throughout the town. Such occurrences are happily unknown now, a high standard of living, housing and education, a better knowledge of hygiene and a greater sense of community responsibility, as well as effective medical treatment, has eradicated such scourges. Tuberculosis, at one time responsible for so much ill health and so many deaths, is now rapidly being controlled. Since 1950 the national death rate for respiratory tuberculosis has fallen by 79%.

In March, 1960, a mass miniature X-ray campaign was carried out in Alton. Of 1,878 chest X-rays taken only 4 cases of tuberculosis were detected. There is little question that the reservoir of infection for tuberculosis is now in the older age groups, and it is these groups which it is most desirable should be X-rayed. It is not possible to make any inference from these figures as to the actual incidence of tuberculosis in the town.

## **Infectious Diseases.**

### **(1) Tuberculosis.**

There were 2 new cases of tuberculosis notified in the area in

1960, 1 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary. One case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified in a herdsman dealing with milk production, immediate action was taken to prevent any possible spread through milk.

**(2) Poliomyelitis.**

No cases have been reported since 1955.

**(3) Diphtheria.**

No cases have been reported in the area for the last 14 years.

**(4) Scarlet Fever.**

Five cases were notified, all in schoolchildren.

**(5) Measles.**

In 1960 three cases were notified, all in schoolchildren. Measles fluctuates biennially, in 1959 there were 104 cases.

**(6) Whooping Cough.**

The incidence of whooping cough also varies widely, but most children are now being protected against whooping cough at the same time as being immunised against diphtheria. The number of cases notified was three.

**(7) Food Poisoning and Dysentery.**

There were no cases notified during the year. This does not necessarily mean that no cases have occurred, but frequently symptoms are mild and the disease self limiting, many cases do not seek treatment and consequently are not notified.

**Immunisation Schemes.**

**(1) Diphtheria.**

Although no cases of diphtheria have occurred in Alton during the last 14 years, all parents should realise that danger still exists, being kept at bay through a satisfactory level of immunisation. From time to time small outbreaks occur in England and are reported by the radio and the Press. Every effort is made by this department to persuade parents to have their children immunised, preferably in the first year of life, and a "booster" injection is given at school at the ages of 5 to 10 years. Immunisation may of course be carried out either at the local clinic or by the family doctor. In 1960 there were 158 cases of diphtheria and 5 deaths in England and Wales, so the problem is not yet solved. An adequate level of immunity in the population is secured by 75% of infants being immunised before their first birthday; in this area taking an average over the last two years, 80.7% of such children were immunised. The number of children in the various age groups who received such protection can be ascertained by the

following table:—

**Number of children who completed a course of primary immunisation and who received reinforcing injections.**

Ages	Diph. only Primary	Diph. only Booster	Diph.&W/cgh Primary	Diph.&W/cgh Booster	W/cgh. only Primary	W/cgh. only Booster	Triple Primary	Triple Booster	Diph. & Tetanus
Under 1	—	—	30	—	1	—	106	—	—
1—4	—	3	2	4	—	1	17	9	—
5—14	13	93	—	73	—	—	6	35	—
Total	13	96	32	77	1	1	129	44	—

It will be noted that the majority of children also received protection against whooping cough. Whooping cough can be most severe in very young children and can have serious after-effects. Most parents recognise the value of such protection.

**Number of children at 31.12.60 who had completed a course of immunisation at any time between 1.1.46 and 31.12.60.**

Age at 31.12.60. i.e. born in year	Under 1 1960	1—4 1956—59	5—9 1951—55	10—14 1946—50	Total under 15 years
Last complete course of inject- ions 1956-60	32	444	424	484	1384
1955 or earlier	—	—	157	379	536
Totals	32	444	581	863	1920

**(2) Smallpox Vaccination.**

Military camps at Aldershot, Bordon and Longmoor with constantly changing personnel coming from abroad render it highly desirable that the vaccination state against smallpox should be maintained at a high level. For travel to certain countries abroad vaccination is essential. Primary vaccination is best carried out in infancy. Expressed as a percentage of live births the County estimate for this area was 76.6%. In Hampshire, 61.50% of births in 1960 were vaccinated.

**Smallpox Vaccinations**

Age at which vaccinated	Primary Vaccinations	Revaccinations
Under 1 year	95	—
1—4 years	9	—
5—14 years	4	5
15 years and over	7	53
Total	115	58

### **(3) Vaccination against Poliomyelitis.**

In 1960 vaccination was made available to all between the ages of 6 months and 40 years, also to persons of over this age at special risk. Two injections are given at monthly intervals and a third not less than seven months after the second. All types of vaccine used are interchangeable. It is possible that in the future a quadruple vaccine may be used combining protection against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus with protection against poliomyelitis. This would of course reduce the number of injections; an oral vaccine is also the subject of research. Neither of these methods is yet generally available.

Every effort was made in 1960 to increase the vaccination rate against poliomyelitis. All Youth Clubs were circularised, gramophone records were provided for them stressing the necessity of protection for young people, publicity was arranged through posters, leaflets and through the Press. The results may be seen below:—

**Figures up to December 31st, 1960,  
For Vaccination against Poliomyelitis in Alton Urban District**

	Group A 6 mts.-18 yrs.	Group B age 19-28 yrs.	Group C age 28-40 yrs.	Group D age unknown or priority group
Estimated Potential	2295	1260	1449	—
No. completed 2nd injections	2015	696	233	20
Percentage	87.6	53.5	16.6	—

These figures, provided by the County Council, show a satisfactory response in the first group. It is hoped during 1961 to increase this percentage, particularly in the young adult group.

### **Accidents.**

#### **(1) Road Accidents.**

There were three deaths of persons living in Alton in motor vehicle accidents. The number of accidents in the town not resulting in loss of life rose from 332 in 1959 to 374 in 1960, an increase of over 12%. The main reason for such accidents, according to the police officers who investigated them, was defect of judgement rather than dangerous driving. Children in the local schools are given instructions and lectures by police officers on kerb drill and maintenance of cycles, and are given proficiency tests. It is only by education and constant propaganda that such accidents can be reduced, public interest is kept up and appropriate action recommended by the Road Safety Committee of this Council.

#### **(2) Accidents in the Home.**

Through the courtesy of Mr. D. F. Aiano, the Secretary of

Alton General Hospital, a list of persons from this area treated in the Casualty Department for accidents in the home in the year 1960 has been provided:—

### Accidents in the Home, 1960

Approx % of population at age group	Age	Cuts		Burns & Scalds		Falls		Miscell- aneous		Total
		m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	
8%	0-4	6	4	8	2	7	5	11	19	62
15%	5-14	8	4	7	2	2	1	8	8	40
66%	15-64	12	8	—	6	—	7	13	20	66
11%	65 +	—	1	—	2	1	8	1	5	18
Total		26	17	15	12	10	21	33	52	186
		43		27		31		85		

It will be noted that of the total burns and scalds, 37% were in the 0-4 age group, although this forms only 8% of the population. Naturally many of these children were brought to the hospital when adults would have been treated at home. Nevertheless scalds and burns in infants and very young children can only be due to inattention by parents. This is emphasised by the injuries under the heading "Miscellaneous," which included a child of 18 months swallowing a large number of aspirins, a child of 7 weeks who swallowed "skin paint," a child of 1 who drank paraffin, others who swallowed hairpins and coins and one who swallowed a screw; metal polish was drunk by a child of 18 months. The majority of home accidents are preventable.

### Problems of the Elderly.

In an ageing society the problems of the elderly increase. The main problem is housing, and the provision of old persons' flats and bungalows as part of an ordinary housing estate is the best method of dealing with this. Alton is a compact town and accommodation for old persons can therefore be arranged near the centre within a short distance of shops. Full use is made of the Home Help Service; there is a Chiropody service in the town for the elderly and an Old Persons' Club.

With these facilities every effort is being made to keep old persons in the community where they can maintain their independence.

### National Assistance Act, 1948.

No action under Section 47 of this Act was necessary in 1960.

## **Factories.**

Information regarding factories will be found in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

## **Caravans.**

The Caravan Act came into force in 1960. There is little room for caravans in the town owing to the high density of building, but in the more rural surroundings of Holybourne and Beech more space is available. It is essential that strict control is maintained over caravan sites from the point of view of sanitation, water supply and fire control. It is very easy for conditions on a caravan site to degenerate so that with overcrowding and lack of hygiene it may become a rural slum. Regulations which will prevent this have been adopted by the Council. Further information concerning caravans will be found in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

## **Water Supply.**

Water was supplied to the town throughout 1960 from the Urban District Council's waterworks. A few houses in Beech have rainwater storage tanks. The main water supply is adequate in quantity and frequent bacteriological analysis ensures its purity.

## **Sewerage, Sewage Disposal and Public Cleansing.**

All houses in the town are connected to the sewer. In the outlying districts of Holybourne some houses still rely on septic tank or cesspool drainage. Beech, a village on the outskirts of the Urban area, is not served yet by a sewer. As the number of houses increase a main sewer will be essential.

I am indebted to Mr. Hugh Burn, A.M.I.Mun.E., the Engineer and Surveyor, for the following information:—

### **Water Supply.**

The average daily consumption of water again increased over the year to 564,145 gallons. Underground water was maintained at a higher level than the previous year and a regular sampling maintained a high standard of purity in supply.

Further extensions have been made during the year on new housing schemes.

### **Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.**

The quantity of sewage dealt with at the Sewage Disposal Works amounted to 333 million gallons.

During the year work on the replacement of Filtering Media of three of the High Level Filters has been commenced and, at the date of this report two filters have been completed.

### **Public Cleansing.**

The collection and disposal of house refuse has continued as

in previous years. Full measures for the control of flies and rodents have been maintained.

Street sweeping has continued to be carried out by direct labour and gully cleansing by Contract under the direction of this department.

### **Swimming Baths.**

There are no public swimming baths in Alton.

Generally, improvement in public health in any area can be secured by a rise in the standard of living, better housing and more extensive public services. However, such improvements will only occur if the public puts into practice principles of health of which it becomes aware through changes in the climate of opinion. Looking backwards, the standards of milk production and distribution, methods of sanitation, the prevalence of infectious disease, housing and factory accommodation of forty years ago would not be acceptable in modern society. Looking forward, one may hope for similar progress.

Changes for the better in health depend on education and subsequent individual alteration in the way of life; such improvement is reflected in the statistics which form Part II of this report.

## **PROVISIONS OF GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA**

### **Devolution of Health Functions.**

On the 1st April, 1953, there came into operation a scheme of devolution of Health functions to existing District Health Sub-Committees. In this area, the No. 7 (Alton District Health Sub-Committee comprises the areas of the Alton Rural District Council and Urban District Council, to which sub-committee both Councils nominate members. Among the resolutions made were:—

“In order to make the fullest possible use of local knowledge and to widen interest there be devolved upon the District Health Sub-Committee as far as possible responsibility for the supervision of the Health Services in the area; in particular services operating under Section 22 (Care of Mothers and Young Children), Section 24 (Health Visiting), Section 26 (Vaccination) and Section 28 (Prevention of illness, care and aftercare, so far as that section does not relate to tuberculosis) of the National Health Service Act, 1946, as amended, provided that those functions are exercised in such a way as to conform with the existing scheme.”

### **Ambulance Facilities.**

The Ambulance Service is conducted by the County Council

who supply monthly details of journeys to the Public Health Committee. The ambulances for the area are stationed at Alton.

Applications for the use of ambulances are made to:—

The Aldershot Ambulance Station  
(Telephone : Aldershot 2244)

### **Child Welfare.**

A Child Welfare Clinic is held every Tuesday afternoon from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Assembly Rooms, Alton. This centre is for the attendance of mothers and babies, and children under five. Activities at the clinic, at which a doctor and nurse attend, include advice on feeding and child management, immunisation, weighing and the distribution of welfare foods and certain Medicaments.

Consequent upon the closure of the Ministry of Food office, National Welfare Food Distribution Centres were established as follows:—

Holybourne	Taylor's Stores (This Centre is now no longer available)	Shop hours
Alton	W.V.S. Office, 25 High Street	Tuesday & Friday 10-12 & 2-4
	Child Welfare Centre, Assembly Rooms	Tuesday 2-4

### **Health Visiting.**

The Health Visitors for Alton are Mrs. J. E. Morrow, 13 Whitedown, Alton, (Telephone Alton 2097), and Miss M. C. Tate, "Spadgers," Gascoigne Lane, Ropley (Telephone Ropley 3237).

### **Home Help Service.**

A scheme of domestic help is available. The helpers are experienced women carefully chosen for their suitability for the work. They will run the home carefully, their job being to take over the housewife's work.

Home Helps are available for the following type of cases:—when the housewife is sick or has to have an operation; when a new baby is expected; when several members of a household are ill at one time; and to give help to the elderly and infirm.

Application for a Home Help, accompanied by a medical certificate, should be made to the District Organiser. The charge depends on the hours worked and the income of the family after certain allowances have been made.

Division VI includes the Urban District of Alton and the Divisional Organiser now has her office at the Town Hall, Petersfield (Telephone: Petersfield 771/773), to whom application should be made for a Home Help.

## Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological examinations of clinical matter (sputum, swabs, etc.) and water, milk and foodstuffs are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester.

Chemical analyses of water, sewage, milk and other samples are carried out by arrangement with the Public Analyst, Southampton.

Thanks are expressed to the Director of Public Health Laboratory Service and the Public Analyst, Southampton, for their ready advice and assistance granted during the year.

## Midwifery and Home Nursing.

These services are administered as follows :—

DISTRICT SERVED	NURSE	SERVICE GIVEN
Alton	Mrs. M. A. Staples, S.R.N., S.C.M., GAS/AIR, Chawton, Alton	Midwifery and general Nursing

QUALIFICATIONS: S.R.N. State Registered Nurse; S.C.M. State Certified Midwife ; Gas/Air, Gas and Air Analgesia Certificate.

Relief duties to cover holidays, sickness or emergency calls are undertaken by neighbouring nurse midwives.

## Ante-Natal Clinics.

A clinic is held every Thursday at 2 p.m. at Alton General Hospital.

The Medical Officers attending the Alton Clinics at the end of the year:—

1st Thursday	Dr. W. S. Larcombe and Dr. P. Shortt (at 2.30 p.m.)
2nd Thursday	Dr. T. C. Wilson
3rd Thursday	Dr. H. E. Larcombe
4th Thursday	Mr. A. F. Goode

## School Health Services.

Clinics are held as follows:—

Orthopaedic	Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital, Alton
Ear, nose and throat	Alton General Hospital
Dental	At Schools
Ophthalmic and orthoptic	Alton General Hospital
Child guidance	Health Centre, Winchester
Speech Therapy	Alton General Hospital.

## Tuberculosis.

Clinics are held at Aldershot, Basingstoke and Winchester, whilst sanatoria are available at Bishopstoke, Chandler's Ford, Liphook and Alton (Morland Hall [The Henry Gauvain Hospital] and Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital).

## Venereal Diseases.

Clinics are held at Aldershot and Winchester.

## Area Welfare Officer.

The Area Welfare Officer is Mr. A. C. Wood, whose office is at 14 King George Avenue, Petersfield (Telephone Petersfield 1199—mornings only).

## Part II (Medical Statistics)

**Table 1—General Statistics**

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	4085
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£122,299
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£509
Population (mid 1960)	...	...	...	...	8930
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	2941

**Table 2—Live Births**

		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	65	46	111
Illegitimate	...	5	8	13
	Total	70	54	124

Live birth rate per 1000 estimated population,  
England and Wales ... ... ... ... ... 17.1

Live birth rate per 1000 of estimated population, Alton ... 13.9

Comparability factor 1.01, adjusted birth rate ... ... 14.0

Illegitimate Live Births per cent of Total Live Births ... 10.5

**Table 3—Still Births**

		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	1	1	2
Illegitimate	...	0	0	0
	Total	1	1	2
Still birth rate per 1000 live births	...	...	...	16.1
Total live and still births	...	...	...	126

**Table 4—Deaths (from all causes)**

	Male	Female	Total	
	56	41	97	
Death rate per 1000 estimated population, Alton ...				10.9
Comparability factor 0.97, adjusted death rate ...				10.6
Death rate per 1000 population, England and Wales (Provisional) ... ... ...				11.5

**Table 5—Infant Mortality (Deaths of infants under one year of age)**

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ... ... ...	3	0	3
Illegitimate ... ... ...	0	0	0
	-	-	-
Total ...	3	0	3
Infant mortality per 1000 live births ... ... ...			24.2
(Infant mortality per 1000 live births, England and Wales)			22.0
Legitimate infant mortality per 1000 legitimate live births			24.2
Illegitimate infant mortality per 1000 illegitimate live births			nil

**Table 6—Neo-natal Mortality**

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age ...	3	0	3
Maternal Deaths including abortions ...	0	0	0
Neo-Natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births) ... ... ... ...			24.2
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births) ... ... ... ...			16.1
Maternal mortality rate per 1000 live and still births ...			0
Peri-natal mortality rate (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and stillbirths			31.7

**Table 7—Causes of Death.**

	Diseases		Male	Female	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	.. ..	0	0	0
2	Tuberculosis, other	.. ..	0	0	0
3	Syphilitic disease	.. ..	1	0	1
4	Diphtheria	.. ..	0	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	.. ..	0	0	0
6	Meningococcal infections	.. ..	0	0	0
7	Acute poliomyelitis	.. ..	0	0	0
8	Measles	.. ..	0	0	0
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	0	0	0
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	2	1	3
11	" " lung and bronchus		4	0	4
12	" " breast	..	0	2	2
13	" " uterus	..	0	2	2
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	.. ..	5	5	10
15	Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	..	1	2	3
16	Diabetes	.. ..	0	0	0
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	5	6	11
18	Coronary disease, angina	..	8	10	18
19	Hypertension with heart disease	..	4	1	5
20	Other heart diseases	.. ..	8	4	12
21	Other circulatory diseases	..	0	3	3
22	Influenza	.. ..	0	0	0
23	Pneumonia	.. ..	2	1	3
24	Bronchitis	.. ..	1	0	1
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	..	1	1	2
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	0	0	0
27	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	..	0	0	0
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	.. ..	1	0	1
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate	.. ..	1	0	1
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	..	0	0	0
31	Congenital malformations	.. ..	2	0	2
32	Other defined and ill-defined causes	..	3	3	6
33	Motor vehicle accidents	.. ..	3	0	3
34	All other accidents	.. ..	3	0	3
35	Suicide	.. ..	1	0	1
36	Homicide and operations of war	..	0	0	0
All causes		.. ..	56	41	97

**Table 8—Deaths according to ages.**

Age group	Males	Females	Total
Under 1 ..	3	0	3
1—9 ..	0	0	0
10—19 ..	2	0	2
20—29 ..	2	0	2
30—39 ..	1	1	2
40—49 ..	0	2	2
50—59 ..	8	3	11
60—69 ..	14	5	19
70—79 ..	13	19	32
80—89 ..	12	7	19
90—99 ..	1	4	5
	<b>56</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>97</b>

**Table 9—Number of Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the last 4 years**

Disease	1957	1958	1959	1960
Scarlet Fever ..	2	0	3	7
Whooping Cough ..	8	28	13	3
Measles .. ..	48	20	104	4
Acute Pneumonia ..	7	13	4	2
Food Poisoning ..	1	0	1	0
Dysentery ..	1	0	0	0
Erysipelas .. ..	2	2	0	0
Puerpural Pyrexia ..	0	0	0	1
Totals .. ..	69	63	125	17

**Table 10—Tuberculosis (details of new cases for the past 5 years)**

Pulmonary	Male	5	1	3	2	1
	Female	2	1	0	1	0
Non-Pulmonary	Male	0	0	0	0	0
	Female	1	0	0	0	1
		8	2	3	3	2

# **ALTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector for the year ended 31st December, 1960.**

To the Chairman and Members of the Alton Urban District Council.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit, herewith, my report for the year 1960, on the sanitary circumstances of the District.

It is pleasing to record that during the year 55 families were taken from sub-standard houses and rehoused in the various estates in the town. This allowed 53 slum clearance houses to be closed, leaving only 6 properties to be dealt with in the present Programme.

The new Slaughterhouse Act occupied a great deal of time during the year, and the operation of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, demanded special attention.

In May, 1960, Dr. Goodey and I presented a combined report to the Health, Housing and Estates Committee, setting out the duties of the staff of the Health and Housing Dept., emphasising the lack of adequate staff both in the office and outside. In due course a firm of administrative experts confirmed that the Department was working under extreme pressure, but it was decided to defer consideration of the matter to a later date. Since then extra duties have been placed on the Department, and it can only be hoped that it will not be long before the whole structure is again examined.

I would like to express my thanks to Dr. R. L. Goodey, Medical Officer of Health, for his cordial co-operation during the year, to the Chairman of the Council, Councillor A. G. Finnimore, the Chairman of the Health, Housing and Estates Committee, Councillor E. T. Hutley, and all members of the Council for their confidence and support, and to Mr. M. G. Worthington and Mr. V. F. Dunk for their help and loyalty, and to colleagues in other Departments for their ready and helpful co-operation.

**DUDLEY M. LING,**  
**Chief Public Health Inspector and Housing Manager.**

### **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD**

#### **Meat.**

The slaughterhouse at Kent Lane fell into disuse during the year, but the Amery Street premises remained in operation and accommodated local butchers and farmers as necessary.

As mentioned elsewhere in this report, both slaughterhouses are in need of total repair and renovation if they are to remain as

licenced slaughterhouses after January, 1962.

### Meat Inspection.

This important service was fully maintained throughout the year, and as near 100% meat inspection as possible under the circumstances was carried out. Working single-handed, it is extremely difficult at times to maintain this high standard, and during holiday times it is impossible, as no full-time relief can be arranged.

As a result of the additional work in dealing with "export" meat, my Council received a grant from the Ministry, and on the basis laid down, on the amount of meat dealt with during the year under review, the grant for inspecting "export" meat is £152 10s. 6d. The total weight of meat and offal condemned as unfit for human consumption amounted to 6 tons 11cwt. 0qrts. 6lbs.

### Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed .. ..	232	704	160	1909	62 96
Number Inspected .. ..	226	689	152	1865	6134
All diseases except T.B. and cysticerci. Whole car- cases condemned	—	4	7	14	60
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned .. .. ..	65	47	1	89	175
Percentage of the number inspected infected with disease other than T.B. and cysticerci .. .. ..	28.8	7.4	5.3	5.5	3.8
Tuberculosis only : Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned .. .. ..	—	—	—	—	33
Percentage of the number inspected infected with T.B. .. .. ..	—	—	—	—	0.5
Cysticercosis					
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned .. .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ..	—	—	—	—	—
Generalized and totally condemned .. ..	—	—	—	—	—

## Return of Diseases for which whole Carcasses were condemned

Disease	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Abscess ..	—	—	—	—	5	5
Emaciation ..	—	2	1	8	1	12
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	4	4
Fever ..	—	1	1	—	9	11
Immaturity ..	—	—	2	—	—	2
Jaundice ..	—	—	—	—	3	3
Moribund ..	—	—	1	2	10	13
Oedema ..	—	—	1	4	18	23
Pyaemia ..	—	—	1	—	3	4
Septicaemia ..	—	1	—	—	5	6
Uraemia ..	—	—	—	—	2	2
	—	4	7	14	60	85

## Return of Diseases for which organs and part Carcasses were condemned

Disease	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Head :						
Abscess ..	—	—	—	—	7	7
Actinomycosis ..	—	1	—	—	—	1
Tuberculosis ..	—	—	—	—	33	33
Heart :						
Echinococcus cysts ..	—	—	—	33	—	33
Pericarditis ..	1	—	—	—	77	78
Lungs :						
Echinococcus cysts ..	—	—	—	39	—	39
Pneumonia ..	6	2	—	—	86	94
Strongylus rufescens ..	—	—	—	5	—	5
Livers :						
Abscess ..	20	4	—	—	—	24
Ascarides ..	—	—	—	—	7	7
Cavernous Angioma ..	—	30	—	—	—	30
Cirrhosis ..	14	1	—	—	8	23
Distomatosis ..	13	5	—	3	—	21
Echinococcus cysts ..	—	—	—	60	—	60
Hepatitis ..	5	—	—	7	86	98
Strongylus rufescens ..	—	—	—	6	—	6
Tenuicolis cysts ..	—	—	—	1	—	1
Kidneys						
Nephritis ..	1	—	—	—	32	33
Spleen :						
Peritonitis ..	1	—	—	—	—	1
Part Carcasses :						
Abscess ..	—	—	1	—	4	5
Bruising ..	4	4	—	—	15	23
Fever ..	—	—	—	—	15	15
Urticaria ..	—	—	—	—	1	1

## **Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933-1954.**

11 (eleven) Licences have been issued to slaughtermen in this district. All trainees are tested in their skill in the use of a mechanically operated instrument before a licence is issued to them. In addition to Captive Bolts, a pair of electric stunners is in use at the slaughterhouse. Stand-by instruments are maintained for use in case of breakdown.

## **SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT, 1958**

### **Slaughterhouse Surveys.**

The slaughterhouses in the district were surveyed in detail, in accordance with the provisions of the Act, and a special report presented to the Health, Housing and Estates Committee on January 12th, 1960.

A draft report to the Ministry was prepared, and interested parties were consulted and their observations were sought. The persons or bodies consulted were:—

Messrs. Baxters (Butchers) Ltd., Northampton.

Messrs. J. H. Dewhurst Ltd., Reading.

Messrs. Mathews & Son Ltd., London, E.C.1.

The Federation of Meat Traders Association, Guildford.

The British Association of Pig Producers, Alton.

The National Farmers' Union, Petersfield.

Messrs Martin & Stratford, Alton.

The Farnham & District Industrial Co-op. Society Ltd., Farnham.

The Transport & General Workers' Union, Aldershot.

The Reading & District Master Butchers' Association, Reading.

Messrs. J. J. Ings, 69, High Street, Alton.

Messrs. Stringer Bros., 10, Normandy Street, Alton.

Messrs. Harvest Butchery, 18-20, Market Street, Alton.

Messrs. A. E. Goodfellow, 13, High Street, Alton.

Mr. K. Reed, 4, Normandy Street, Alton.

Mr. C. Forbes, 19, Lipscombe Rise, Alton.

The report was submitted to the Minister with a recommendation that 1st January, 1962, should be the appointed day by which date the slaughterhouses should be made to comply with the Act.

The main works generally necessary are as follows:—

- (1) Lairage to be increased and arranged to provide for segregation for animals suspected of being diseased, and separation of horned or fractious animals.
- (2) Provision of adequate hanging space for meat.
- (3) Provision for the isolation of meat requiring further examination by the meat inspector.
- (4) Provision of locked accommodation for meat rejected as unfit.

- (5) Provision of a high standard of lighting.
- (6) Provision of a constant supply of hot and cold water, and adequate washing facilities.
- (7) Provision of approved stunning pen for adult cattle.
- (8) Provision of adequate storage space for hides, etc.

### **Food Condemned other than at the Slaughterhouse**

Meat lbs. ozs.	Offal lbs. ozs.	Fish lbs. ozs.	Tinned Food lbs. ozs.	Fruit lbs. ozs.
360 5	30 0	24 8	444 14	25 0

I am pleased to report that no seizure of diseased meat or other food has been necessary during the year.

### **Food Adulteration.**

This section of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, is operated by the County Council, and I am much obliged to Mr. J. S. Perry, Chief Inspector of Weights & Measures, for the following details of samples taken during the year ended 31st March, 1961, within this area:—

#### **1. Milk Samples.**

Thirty-six samples of milk were obtained and only one was unsatisfactory due to slight (1%) adulteration with added water. This affected pasteurised bottled milk and investigations were made at the dairy at which the milk had been processed, including the checking of the milk received by the dairy proprietors from individual producers. The inquiries made indicated that the defect had probably been caused by inadequate drainage of the pasteurising plant after sterilisation, with the result that the first few bottles to be filled with milk had been adversely affected. Other samples of milk which had passed through the plant subsequently, proved to be in order. In the circumstances, the discrepancies were not regarded as particularly serious, although they were brought to the notice of the owners of the dairy, by whom steps were taken to avoid any repetition. Further samples since the occasion in question have proved to be free from complaint.

#### **2. Miscellaneous Samples.**

Of the 20 articles other than milk, 2 were unsatisfactory, and the complaints raised affected meat products sold under the descriptions Beefburgers and Porkburgers. The former was regarded as deficient of meat and in the latter case no indication of the ingredients was furnished. Although these types of products are not subject to any standard, they are normally found to contain

not less than 70% of meat and this is regarded as a reasonable minimum for the purpose of the Food and Drug Act. The discrepancies were not considered serious enough to warrant legal action, but representations were made to the producers of both articles and, after some discussion, the required amendments were secured.

### **3. General.**

It should again be mentioned that many of the products sold in Alton Urban District are subject to checks in other areas. This applies particularly to pre-packed articles and in certain cases to milk received from dairies outside the immediate locality.

### **Milk Supplies.**

Distribution of milk within the area is carried out by six Retailers in addition to one Producer/Retailer who sells Raw Tuberculin Tested (Farm Bottled) from shop premises.

Licences issued under the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulation, 1949—

Dealers' Licences to use the designation

“Pasteurised”	...	...	...	6
---------------	-----	-----	-----	---

Supplementary Licences to use the designation “Pasteurised”

...	...	...	1
-----	-----	-----	---

Supplementary Licences to use the designation “Sterilised”

...	...	...	1
-----	-----	-----	---

Licences issued under the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949—

Dealers' Licences to use the designation

“Tuberculin Tested”	...	...	...	1
---------------------	-----	-----	-----	---

### **Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960.**

The above Regulations come into force on 1st January, 1961, and in future Dealers' Licences will be valid for 5 years from that date and will be renewable for subsequent quinquennial periods, the Licencing Authority being the Hampshire County Council.

By virtue of powers invested in the District Council by the Hampshire County Council, the Alton Urban District Council will in future issue these Licences.

### **Ice Cream.**

No ice cream is now manufactured in the town and there are 3 vans plying in the area. No action in respect of contraventions of the Heat Treatment Regulations has been necessary against any of the 39 registered retailers.

### **Food Premises.**

Inspections are carried out of premises and vehicles retailing food but no statutory action was necessary to enforce the Regulations.

## **OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES**

### **Rodent Control and Pest Destruction.**

Under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, the Council is obliged to see that its own property is free of rats and mice, and to inspect from time to time the whole of the area to ensure that there are no infestations of rodents. The occupiers of premises are responsible for treating any infestation on the premises and to report to the local authority.

Mr. Dunk, the Council's part-time Rodent Operator, is employed on 1 part-day per week on rodent control, and in cases of obstinate infestations difficulty is being experienced in giving adequate advice and assistance.

The issue of Warfarin packs to householders continues and assists in keeping the town free from major infestations.

### **Pet Animals Act, 1951.**

Two establishments in the district are licensed as Pet Shops. They are:—

Messrs. M. A. Rose & Son Ltd., 23, Market Street, Alton.  
Mr. F. Beresford, 9, Normandy Street, Alton.

Periodical visits are made to ensure that the Act is complied with. There have been no contraventions.

### **Moveable Dwellings.**

#### **Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act, 1960.**

The provisions of this Act required all local authorities to survey their area and provide a schedule of caravans. This was completed and in due course licences were issued to the following:—

Miss L. V. Wignall, Church Lane, Holybourne, Alton.  
Mr. R. Duckett, Alton House Hotel, Normandy Street, Alton.  
Mr. G. Radford, The Dell, Windmill Hill, Alton.  
Mr. F. Holland, Abbey Road, Beech, Alton.

The presence of the occasional caravan on "Fishers Meadow," London Road, Holybourne, has aroused adverse comment, and as the Town Planning Authority are required to give permission before the District Council can licence a site, everyone is anxiously waiting for Planning to move. In the meantime more caravans are drawing on to the site, to the profit of the tenant farmer, but displeasure of the neighbouring householders.

## Housing.

### Slum Clearance.

Fifty-five houses became available for letting to slum clearance families and the original slum clearance list has now been reduced to 6. Of these it is possible that 4 will not be required to move, but it is hoped that the remaining 2 will be accommodated in the very near future.

### Action Taken.

(a) Houses demolished.								
	As a result of formal or informal procedure under Sec. 17(1) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	10	
(b) Unfit houses closed.	Under Sec. 16(1) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	48	
(c) Unfit houses made fit.	After informal action	...	...	...	...	...	9	
	After formal action (a) Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	nil	
	(b) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	3	

### Number of Inspections made.

Complaints received	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
Complaint investigated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
Complaints justified	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34
Housing Defects—Public Health and Housing Acts								
Inspections and revisits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	196
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Tents, vans and sheds ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	63
Factories (mechanical power) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Factories (non-mechanical power) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Butchers' Shops ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32
Fishmongers ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Other Food Shops ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	74
Cafés, Restaurants, etc. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Bakehouses ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Ice Cream Premises ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Dairies ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Piggeries (and other animals not domestic) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Miscellaneous visits ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	84
Disinfestation ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Water Supply ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Public Houses ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Schools ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Smoke Abatement ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Infectious Diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Food Vehicles ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Interviews at office (Housing Management and Public Health)	..	..	..	..	..	..	1871	

### Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

#### Part I.

Under the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937, the District Council is the authority responsible for enforcing the provisions regarding sanitary accommodation in all factories and, in addition, the provision with respect to cleanliness, overcrowding, workroom

temperature and ventilators and floor drainage in all factories where mechanical power is not used.

The following particulars are those prescribed on the administration of the above Acts:—

The following particulars are those prescribed on the administration of the above Acts:—

Premises (1)	No. on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspect- ions (3)	Written Notice (4)	Prosecu- tions (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	8	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	47	17	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworks premises)	12	—	—	—

#### Cases in which defects were found:—

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remed- ied (3)	Referred To HM. Insp. (4)	By HM. Insp. (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
	3	3	—	1	—

## Part VIII of the Act. (Outwork). (Sections 110 & 111).

Nature of Work	No. of Outworkers in August list, required by Section 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel, making, etc.	3	Nil	Nil	Nil

### Noise Abatement Act, 1960.

The above Act came into operation on the 27th November, 1960, and under Section 1 noise or vibration, which would amount to a nuisance at common law, becomes a statutory nuisance which can be dealt with according to the procedure provided in Part III of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Three or more occupiers of land or premises who are aggrieved by a noise may make a complaint to a Magistrate independent of any action taken by the local authority.

Aircraft and statutory undertakers are exempt from the provisions of the Act.

No complaints, warranting action under the Act, have been received.

### Statutory Notices

#### Number of Statutory Notices issued for abatement or abolition of nuisances.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93	—	—
Housing Act, 1957, Section 9	3	3
Food and Drugs Act, 1938/55	—	—
	—	—
	3	3

### Legal Proceedings.

No legal proceedings were taken during the year.

### Disinfections.

Steam disinfection of bedding, clothing, etc., may still be carried out, by arrangement, at the Aldershot or Farnham Hospitals.

Number of premises disinfected after infectious disease	...	2
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## Housing Management.

Private Properties completed in 1960	...	...	...	46
Council Properties	...	...	...	97
Families rehoused from slum clearance properties	...	...	...	55
Number of slum clearance properties vacated	...	...	...	53
Casual vacancies occurring during the year	...	...	...	21
Transfers arranged in Council property	...	...	...	51
Exchanges permitted from other Councils' property	...	...	...	1
Exchanges permitted from private property	...	...	...	nil

Twenty new dwellings were provided at Edward Road and 77 on the Stage 1 of Manor Estate, Anstey Lane.

The waiting list was revised during the year and on 31st December, 1960, there were 224 applications.





C. Mills & Co., Alton